

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-8 are amended. Claims 1-11 remain pending in this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

Claims 1-8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,861,771 to Matsuda et al. ("Matsuda") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,936,460 to Irvani and further in view of Japanese Patent No. 2002270781A to Negoro et al. ("Negoro"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Matsuda describes a voltage step-down circuit 7, but does not describe a high-breakdown voltage regulator as now more particularly recited in amended claim 1. Claim 1 should therefore be allowable over Matsuda. Irvani and Negoro are cited for teaching an inverter circuit and a diode, respectively, and fail to cure the deficiency of Matsuda. Therefore, claim 1 as amended should be allowable over the combination of Matsuda, Irvani and Negoro.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable along with claim 1 for at least the reasons provided above as well as on their own merits. Claim 8 has been amended to recite limitations similar to those of amended claim 1, and claim 11 depends from claim 8. Therefore, claims 8 and 11 should be allowable over the combination of Matsuda, Irvani and Negoro for at least the reasons provided above as well as on their own merits. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda, Irvani and Negoro and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0046532 to Menegoli et al. ("Menegoli"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

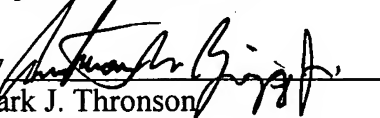
Claims 9-10 depend from claim 8 and should be allowable over the combination of Matsuda, Irvani and Negoro for at least the reasons provided above as well as on their own merits. Menegoli is cited for teaching forming MOSFET transistors in either enhancement or

depletion mode by adjusting the surface concentration of the channel region and fails to cure the deficiencies of Matsuda, Iravani and Negoro. Claims 9-10 should therefore be found allowable over the combination of Matsuda, Iravani, Negoro and Menegoli. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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